

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEL AV 02560 091600Z

10

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 ACDA-07

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 /091 W

----- 130100

R 091304Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1009

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 2560

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS IS

SUBJ: MARCH 30 ARAB DEMONSTRATIONS IN GALILEE

REF: (A) TEL AVIV 2275; (B) TEL AVIV 2300; (C) TEL AVIV 2305;
(D) TEL AVIV 2397 (ALL NOTAL)

SUMMARY: INTENSITY OF DEMONSTRATIONS BY ISRAELI ARABS ON
MARCH 30 IN GALILEE SURPRISED MOST ISRAELI JEWISH CITIZENS.
DEMONSTRATIONS REFLECT FACT THAT DECLARED GOAL OF INTEGRATION
OF ARAB COMMUNITY INTO ISRAELI SOCIETY IS STILL UNREALIZED.
THE PROBLEM OF ARABS IN ISRAEL WILL CONTINUE, AND PROBABLY
INTENSIFY, SINCE GOAL OF INTEGRATION ITSELF IS LIKELY TO PROVE
UNREALISTIC. END SUMMARY.

1. TEN DAYS AFTER THE VIOLENT ERUPTION BY ISRAELI ARABS
ON MARCH 30, THERE ARE STILL MANY QUESTIONS AS TO WHAT
EXACTLY HAPPENED AND WHAT IT MEANS. AS TO WHAT HAPPENED, THERE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEL AV 02560 091600Z

IS CONFUSION ON DETAILS BUT MOST OBSERVERS AGREE THAT SOMETHING

CAME APART DURING THAT DAY THAT PROBABLY CANNOT BE PUT BACK TOGETHER AGAIN. IN PARTICULAR, A THRESHOLD OF VIOLENCE WAS CROSSED BY BOTH JEWS AND ARABS BODING ILL FOR THE FUTURE.

2. THE INITIAL REACTION AMONG JEWISH ISRAELIS TO THE EVENTS WAS ONE OF SURPRISE AND SHOCK. THE MAJORITY, CONVINCED THAT THE ENLIGHTENED POLICY OF THEIR GOVERNMENT OVER 28 YEARS HAD BROUGHT TO THE ARAB MINORITY IN ISRAEL MORE FREEDOM AND GREATER PROSPERITY THAN IS AVAILABLE IN MOST ARAB STATES, WAS STUNNED. EVEN THE SMALL NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT, LABOR ALIGNMENT AND HISTADRUT OFFICIALS WHO HAVE CONSIDERED GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN THE STATE AND ITS ARAB CITIZENS A VITAL TASK AND HAVE FOUGHT MANY BUREAUCRATIC BATTLES TO THAT END WERE SURPRISED AT THE VIRULENCE OF THE ARAB FRUSTRATION AS EXPRESSED IN THE VIOLENT REACTION TO THE PRESENCE OF ISRAELI SECURITY FORCES.

3. BEYOND THIS INITIAL REACTION, THE ISRAELIS HAVE FOCUSED ON TWO ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM. MUCH ATTENTION HAS BEEN DEVOTED TO THE ROLE OF RAKAH IN INCITING THE ARAB COMMUNITY AND TO THE QUESTION OF ITS STATUS AS A LEGITIMATE POLITICAL PARTY IN ISRAEL. IN SPITE OF A PUBLIC ADMONITION FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S ADVISOR FOR ARAB AFFAIRS NOT TO EXAGGERATE THE ROLE OF RAKAH IN WHAT ENSUED MARCH 30, THE AVERAGE ISRAELI VIEWS RAKAH WITH GRAVE MISGIVINGS, BOTH FOR ITS COMMUNIST AFFILIATION AND FOR ITS APPARENT WILLINGNESS TO AROUSE WHAT IS SEEN AS DISLOYALTY AMONG ARABS WHO HAD BEEN THOUGHT TO BE CONTENT. THERE IS THUS A STRONG TENDENCY TO VIEW RAKAH AS THE CAUSE OF ARAB UNREST RATHER THAN AS MERELY ITS BENEFICIARY.

4. THE SECOND ASPECT OF THE REACTION (DEFINITELY SECONDARY AND CONFINED PRIMARILY TO LIBERAL CIRCLES, BUT PRESENT NONETHELESS) HAS BEEN CONCERN THAT GOVERNMENT ACTIONS DESIGNED TO INTEGRATE THE ARAB SECTOR INTO THE LIFE OF THE STATE HAVE BEEN INSUFFICIENT. FOR EXAMPLE, ISRAELIS HOLDING THIS VIEW USUALLY POINT TO THE PRESENCE OF JEWISH OFFICIALS IN MINISTERIAL OFFICES DEALING WITH THE ARAB COMMUNITY. ALSO CITED IS THE LACK OF A MEANINGFUL ROLE FOR ARAB POLITICIANS WITHIN THE RULING LABOR ALIGNMENT AND THE ABSENCE OF ARABS GENERALLY FROM THE ISRAELI POWER STRUCTURE. AS IF TO UNDERSCORE THE PROBLEM, THE LABOR PARTY ON MARCH 30 RELEASED ITS LONG-TERM PLAN FOR INCREASING THE INTEGRATION OF ARABS INTO THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TEL AV 02560 091600Z

LIFE OF THE STATE--WRITTEN BY RA'ANAN COHEN, THE JEWISH HEAD OF THE PARTY'S ARAB DEPARTMENT.

5. BOTH REACTION FAIL TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THE REAL PROBLEM OF THE ARABS IN ISRAEL. A PROBLEM UNDERSTOOD BY VERY FEW ISRAELIS. THAT PROBLEM, DERIVING IN PART FROM HISTORY BUT ALSO FROM FEELINGS OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL INFERIORITY WHICH HAVE BEEN HEIGHTENED BY EVENTS SINCE OCTOBER 1973, IS THAT A HALF-MILION

PEOPLE INCREASINGLY IDENTIFY THEMSELVES PRIMARILY AS ARABS WHO LIVE IN ISRAEL RATHER THAN AS ISRAELIS OF ARAB BACKGROUND. IT IS PERHAPS INEVITABLE, AS EXPLAINED ABOVE, THAT RAKAH WILL BE BLAMED FOR THE ARAB PROBLEM; BUT EVEN SHOULD RAKAH DISAPPEAR, THE PROBLEM WOULD NOT. RAKAH HAS MERELY SUCCEEDED IN FORCING IT INTO PUBLIC VIEW, A SUCCESS WHICH ONLY ENHANCES THAT PARTY'S POPULARITY AMONG ITS ARAB CONSTITUENTS.

6. IT IS QUESTIONABLE WHETHER A GREATER EFFORT TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE ARAB MINORITY, HOWEVER WELL INTENDED, WILL MAKE A SUBSTANTIAL DIFFERENCE. IT IS UNLIKELY, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT IT WILL BECOME EASIER FOR ARABS TO MOVE INTO DECISION-MAKING POSITIONS WITHIN KEY MINISTRIES WHEN EQUALLY QUALIFIED--AND MORE "ACCEPTABLE"--JEWISH APPLICANTS ARE AVAILABLE. MORE IMPORTANT, THERE IS LITTLE LIKELIHOOD THAT GREATER RESOURCES WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE ARAB SECTOR IN VIEW OF THE GLOOMY ECONOMIC SITUATION FACING THE COUNTRY AS A WHOLE OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS. IF NOTHING ELSE, THE IMPLEMENTATION IN THE MONTHS AHEAD OF THE GALILEE DEVELOPMENT PLAN (WHICH WAS THE FLASH POINT FOR THE DEMONSTRATIONS) WILL PROVIDE CONSTANT REMINDERS TO ISRAEL'S ARABS OF THE NATIONAL POLICY TO JUDAICIZE THE GALILEE AND WILL CALL TO MIND THE EMOTIONAL ISSUE OF LAND EXPROPRIATION.

7. GIVEN THE BASIC NATURE OF ISRAEL AS A JEWISH STATE AND THE INCREASING IDENTIFICATION OF YOUNGER ISRAELI ARABS WITH AN ARAB WORLD IN CONFLICT WITH THAT STATE, THE ALIENATION OF THE ARAB COMMUNITY SEEMS DESTINED TO INTENSIFY. ISRAEL, WITH ITS ZIONIST SYMBOLOGY, AND ISRAELI ARABS, WITH THEIR INHERENT IDENTITY PROBLEM, ARE IN FACT STUCK WITH EACH OTHER FOR BETTER OR--AS IS MORE LIKELY--FOR WORSE.
TOON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMUNITY RELATIONS, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, DESEGREGATION, SOCIAL CHANGE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TELAV02560
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760136-0208
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760476/aaaacmru.tel
Line Count: 146
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 TEL AVIV 2275, 76 TEL AVIV 2300, 76 TEL AVIV 2305
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <10 SEP 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MARCH 30 ARAB DEMONSTRATIONS IN GALILEE
TAGS: PINT, PINS, IS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006